

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

IN RE: NATIONAL FOOTBALL
LEAGUE PLAYERS' CONCUSSION
INJURY LITIGATION

MDL No. 2323
No. 12-md-2323-AB

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO:

CIVIL ACTION
Case No. 2:12-cv-1024

LARRY BARNES, et al.

Plaintiffs,

v.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE, et al.,

Defendants.

**RIDDELL DEFENDANTS' REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL NOTICE
IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO SEVER; EXHIBITS "A" – "K"**

BOWMAN AND BROOKE LLP
Paul G. Cereghini (SBN: 148016)
Paul.Cereghini@bowmanandbrooke.com
Vincent Galvin, Jr. (SBN: 104448)
Vincent.Galvin@bowmanandbrooke.com
Marion V. Mauch (SBN: 253672)
Marion.Mauch@bowmanandbrooke.com
879 West 190th Street, Suite 700
Gardena, CA 90248-4227
Tel: (310) 768-3068
Fax: (310) 719-1019

Attorneys for Defendants RIDDELL, INC.; ALL AMERICAN
SPORTS CORPORATION; RIDDELL SPORTS GROUP, INC.;
EASTON-BELL SPORTS, INC.; EASTON-BELL SPORTS, LLC;
EB SPORTS CORP.; and RBG HOLDINGS CORP.

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

LARRY BARNES, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE, et
al.,

Defendants.

CASE NO.: CV 11-8396 R (MANx)

**RIDDELL DEFENDANTS'
REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL NOTICE
IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO
SEVER; EXHIBITS "A" – "K"**

Date: January 17, 2012

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Dept: Courtroom 8

Judge: Hon. Manuel L. Real

Notice of related cases:

No. CV 11-08394 R (MANx)

No. CV 11-08395 R (MANx)

1 **TO THE CLERK OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR**
2 **THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA AND ALL PARTIES AND**
3 **THEIR COUNSEL OF RECORD HEREIN:**

4 Defendants RIDDELL, INC. (erroneously styled as “d/b/a Riddell sports
5 Group, Inc.”); ALL AMERICAN SPORTS CORPORATION; RIDDELL SPORTS
6 GROUP, INC.; EASTON-BELL SPORTS, INC.; EASTON-BELL SPORTS,
7 LLC; EB SPORTS CORP.; and RBG HOLDINGS CORP (collectively, the
8 “Riddell Defendants”)¹ respectfully request that this Court take judicial notice
9 pursuant to Rule 201 of the Federal Rules of Evidence of the following items in
10 support of the Riddell Defendants’ Motion to Sever:²

11 **1. Undisputed fact that football helmets have changed considerably**
12 **between 1953 and 2009.**

13 This Court can and should take judicial notice of the undisputed fact that
14 football helmets have changed considerably between 1953 and 2009. Federal
15 Rules of Evidence, Rule 201 provides that a court can take judicial notice of a fact
16 not subject to reasonable dispute that is either: (1) generally known in the
17 community where the court is located; or (2) capable of accurate and ready
18 determination by resort to sources whose accuracy cannot be reasonably
19 questioned. *See, e.g., Wietschner v. Monterey Pasta Co.*, 294 F. Supp. 2d 1102
20 (N.D. Cal. 2003) (finding that it was appropriate for the court to take judicial
21 notice that refrigerated goods are generally perishable, since that fact is a matter of
22 common knowledge). The fact that football helmets have undergone considerable
23 changes over this fifty-six-year period is generally known.

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26 ¹ Referring to these Defendants collectively is for convenience only and does not
27 imply or concede that they are properly joined or named as Defendants, and the
28 “Riddell Defendants” reserve the right to move to dismiss some or all of them.

² The Riddell Defendants made an identical Request for Judicial Notice earlier,
which the *Barnes* Plaintiffs did not challenge.

Moreover, Riddell's website¹ provides a history of football helmets, indicating the considerable changes that have occurred over time. Both the *Maxwell* and *Pear* Plaintiffs quote almost verbatim the same Riddell website in their First Amended Complaint where they allege the evolution of helmet design, thus conceding that source's reliability. (See, e.g., *Maxwell* First Am. Compl. ¶¶ 95-98.)

In addition to the Riddell website numerous other sources document that football helmets have, indeed, undergone considerable changes over the past six decades. See, e.g., Andrew Gaffney, *10 Steps in the High-Tech Evolution of Pro Football Helmets*, Popular Mechanics (Dec. 18, 2009, 3:18 PM), <http://www.popularmechanics.com/outdoors/sports/football/4281378> (attached as Ex. A); see also Joan Murphy & Sean Dougherty, *Progressions: Evolution of the football helmet since 1946*, USA Today (Dec. 16, 2010, 5:48 PM), http://www.usatoday.com/sports/2010-12-13-progressions-footballhelmets_N.htm?loc=interstitialskip (attached as Ex. B); see also ESPN Zoom Gallery, ESPN.com, <http://sports.espn.go.com/espn/flash/zoomGallery?section=gen&photoGalleryId=4368944> (last visited Dec. 15, 2011) (attached as Ex. C); see also NOCSAE, <http://nocsae.org/about/history.html> (last visited Dec. 15, 2011) (discussing certain changes to football helmets since 1970s) (attached as Ex. D). These additional resources further demonstrate the reality that the fact football helmets have changed considerably over the past six decades is not reasonably in dispute.

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¹ <http://www.riddell.com/innovation/history/>

1 **2. Delaware and Illinois Secretaries of States' webpages indicating**
2 **the dates of incorporation and formation of the Riddell**
3 **Defendants.**

4 This Court can and should take judicial notice of the dates of incorporation
5 and formation of the Riddell Defendants as listed on the Delaware and Illinois
6 Secretaries of States' online databases. Such facts are "capable of accurate and
7 ready determination by resort to sources whose accuracy cannot reasonably be
8 questioned." *See* Fed. R. Evid. 201; *see also In re Amgen Inc. Secs. Litig.*, 544 F.
9 Supp. 2d 1009, 1023 (C.D. Cal. 2008). Attached hereto as Exhibits "E" through
10 "K" are true and correct copies of the webpages from the Delaware and Illinois
11 Secretaries of State indicating the Riddell Defendants' dates of incorporation and
12 formation. In the Riddell Defendants' previous filing, the *Barnes* Plaintiffs did
13 not oppose this fact. The *Maxwell* and *Pear* Plaintiffs previously conceded this
14 fact as well. *See Maxwell and Pear* Plaintiffs' Opp. to Req. for Jud. Not. re Mot.
15 Sever, 1:7-11.

16 DATED: December 20, 2011

BOWMAN AND BROOKE LLP

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18
19 By /s/ Paul G. Cereghini

20 Paul G. Cereghini
21 Vincent Galvin
22 Marion V. Mauch
23 Attorneys for Defendants RIDDELL,
24 INC., ALL AMERICAN SPORTS
25 CORPORATION, RIDDELL
26 SPORTS GROUP, INC., EASTON-
27 BELL SPORTS, INC., EASTON-
28 BELL SPORTS, LLC, EB SPORTS
CORP., and RBG HOLDINGS
CORP.